

NEW YORK TIMES

Approved For Release 2004/10/12 : CIA-RDP81M00980R002000090192-9

A10

C

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1978

House Ethics Committee Asks Seoul for Same Access to Tongsun Park Accorded to the Justice Department

By RICHARD HALLORAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The House ethics committee has asked the South Korean Government to give it the same access to Tongsun Park that Seoul has agreed to give the Justice Department in its investigation of alleged Korean influence buying in Washington.

Leon Jaworski, the committee's special counsel, said in a statement today, "We have requested that the South Korean Government make Mr. Park available for testimony in proceedings of the committee at such time as the committee may schedule them."

Mr. Jaworski's statement served notice

that the committee had divorced itself from the Justice Department in dealing with the Seoul Government and would try to obtain Mr. Park's testimony without regard to the conditions or timetable set by Justice Department officials.

The committee's position, coupled with its announcement yesterday that Mr. Park would be served a subpoena as soon as he arrives in the United States, appeared to jeopardize the tentative agreement that the Justice Department has reached with Seoul.

News dispatches from Seoul today quoted Foreign Minister Park Tong Jin, who is not related to Tongsun Park, as saying that Mr. Park might be "discouraged" from going to the United States to testify.

Mr. Jaworski made clear, in angry terms, that the committee was not satisfied with the deal the Justice Department had made with Seoul, calling it "ill-advised" and an "affront to Congress." He urged Seoul to correct that and warned

that "to do less will surely result in the most severe consequences for South Korea."

The special counsel repeated his earlier demand that the South Koreans fully cooperate with the committee in its investigation into alleged acceptance of illicit Korean money and favors by American Congressmen. That included information from former Korean ambassadors, intelligence officers and other officials.

Source close to Mr. Jaworski said he felt certain that the House would back him in this campaign, even to the point of cutting off military and economic aid if that became necessary to get South Korean cooperation.

The ethics committee request went to the State Department yesterday, to be relayed to the South Korean Government. The request was made in a letter approved by the chairman, John J. Flinn Jr., Democrat of Georgia, the ranking Republican, Floyd Spence, of South Carolina, and Mr. Jaworski.

Mr. Jaworski and the chairman received backing from Representative Bruce F. Caputo, Republican of Westchester, the committee's resident critic. Mr. Caputo said in a telephone interview from Yonkers that he supported the request, but urged the committee to go "further and faster."

Mr. Caputo suggested that the committee invite the Korean Ambassador, Kim Yong Shik, to appear before the committee to explain his Government's reluctance to have Mr. Park tell what he knows. He said that the committee also should ask Mr. Jaworski to go to Seoul to negotiate directly with Korean officials.

A spokesman for the Korean Embassy said he had not yet seen the text of the committee's request and therefore had no comment. The Korean Government has not been adamant in opposing the appearance of Mr. Park before Congressional committees if he returns to testify in court trials.

To complete the Justice Department's negotiations with Seoul, the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the criminal division, Benjamin R. Civiletti, and members of his staff are scheduled to leave for Seoul tomorrow morning.

Before they can start questioning Mr. Park, however, they must agree with Korean officials on a memorandum of understanding and a prosecutorial agreement that set forth the conditions under which Mr. Park can be questioned and called to testify. The terms of those agreements have been negotiated but not confirmed. They are still secret.

A correspondent for The New York Times in Seoul reported today that Foreign Minister Park had said that his Government would stick to the letter of the agreement, which specifically excludes any obligation for Mr. Park to testify before a Congressional committee.

Mr. Civiletti will be accompanied by Daniel Swifflinger, the deputy special counsel of the Senate ethics committee,

which is undertaking an inquiry parallel to that of the House ethics committee. Mr. Swifflinger will observe the questioning and assist Justice Department officials on questions about senators.

The Senate inquiry, which has not received nearly as much public attention as that of the House, is concentrated now on a confidential review of all available evidence. The investigators plan to write a report before May 1 in which they will recommend what further investigation, including hearings, they consider necessary. The Senate committee, headed by Senator Adlai E. Stevenson 3d, Democrat of Illinois, must then vote the next step.

Mr. Jaworski, in his statement, emphasized "that our request for the testimony of Mr. Park does not alter the committee's plan to subpoena him when and where he enters the jurisdiction of the United States." But he said he hoped that could be avoided by an agreement with the South Korean Government.

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDS!